

species were noted, including *Polia bombycina* Hufn (= *nitens* Haw.), *Ptilodontella cucullina* D. & S. and *Cidaria fulvata* Forster.

The last night trip of the period under review was to Chobham, Surrey, on 25th June when day-time temperatures had reached 35°C. and the night was the hottest of the year. In fact, the outing was disappointing because the sheer weight of numbers made it almost impossible to inspect the traps. No sooner had one spotted a desirable Geo. than it was trampled on by a worn *Hyloicus pinastri* L. We were surprised to see a fresh second brood *P. hippocastanaria* at this early date, but disappointed that both *Euphyia unangulata* Haw. and the only *Idaea sylvestraria* Hb. were all males. One species which one seems to encounter with less regularity these days and of which we saw two was *Plemyria rubiginata* D. & S.

Throughout the above we have followed the nomenclature of Kloet & Hincks (1972).

Notes and Observations

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN FRITILLARY (*ARGYNNIS LATHONIA* L.) IN SURREY IN 1976. — On the 12th July whilst following a female *Argynnis aglaja* L. which was intent on ovipositing on the Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*) that abounds on the Surrey Downs, I was led to a patch of flowering marjoram at the top of this south facing slope. Avidly feeding and gently flitting from flower to flower was a male Queen of Spain Fritillary in immaculate condition, probably no more than two days out of its pupa. I then spent three-quarters of an hour taking innumerable photographs of the insect, all of its magnificent underside as it seemed unwilling to show its topside, at least in the heat of one of the days of continuous sun in the summer of 1976. When I finally took my leave, the Queen of Spain was still intent on feeding from this patch of marjoram.

Revisiting this area of Surrey downland on the 19th July, I again encountered the butterfly only two fields west and a quarter of a mile from the original place of its discovery. It was once more engrossed in feeding from marjoram, but during the hour I spent with it a knapweed and thistle were briefly visited. The 19th July was a day of sunny periods and occasional cloud cover. When the sun disappeared the Queen of Spain would come off the marjoram and bask, wings outspread on bare earth or flattened grass, and this gave me the opportunity to photograph its upperside to supplement the previous ones of the glorious silver spangles. I recognised this same individual on the second occasion as it had a bent antenna, but its origin remains a mystery, though from its immaculate condition when first found and the fact that it is double-brooded on the Continent, one wonders whether this specimen was perhaps born in Britain from an early May immigrant. — K. J. WILLMOTT, 34 Daybrook Road, Merton Park, London, SW19 3DH.

THE STATUS OF *HETEROGRAPHIS OBLITELLA* (ZELLER) IN BRITAIN. — This species used to be thought of as a rare migrant

in Britain (see Beirne, *British Pyralid and Plume Moths* (1954) p. 88). Considerable interest was therefore generated when on the 5th May, 1956 a strong colony was discovered at Pitsea in Essex (see Huggins (1956), *Entomologist*, **89**: 152-4), although within a short time the species had again died out from there. Shortly afterwards however the first Kentish specimen was taken by J. M. Chalmers-Hunt on the 21st June, 1956 (*Ent. Rec.* (1956), **68**: 246). Subsequent to that record only random examples were recorded until Steven Whitebread's note referring to a number of specimens taken around his home in North Kent (*Ent. Rec.* (1975), **87**: 190). He made the suggestion that the species could possibly be "breeding on the North Kent coast on the marshes or saltmarshes".

This year, although I have done little collecting, I have succeeded in taking *oblitella* in a number of different localities. Firstly on the B.E.N.H.S. meeting at Eastbourne, 15th-18th July, 1976, I caught several specimens not only on the Crumbles at Langney Point but also on Beachy Head itself. Then on the 28th July I was to see the species at light on Portland.

However, the biggest surprise came on the 22nd July whilst recording near the Shellness Nature Reserve on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. On the shingle a few specimens of *oblitella* were noted, but on inspecting an actinic trap placed on the edge of the salt-marsh only a couple of hundred yards away the species was abundant, easily the commonest moth present. The trap had been placed among *Halimione portulacoides*, whilst a few yards away there were large stands of *Cardaria draba*, the Hoary Cress or Thanet Weed.

I have subsequently heard that the species has been taken in some numbers throughout the South, South West and the Home Counties. It would be interesting to hear of any more records of this moth so that its apparent population explosion may be monitored. — Dr. I. A. WATKINSON, 166 Sterling Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

A FURTHER NOTE ON *EPIBLEMA GRANDAEVANA* (L. & Z.). — The recent notes in *Ent. Rec.*, Vol. 88, No. 5 and Vol. 88, Nos. 7 and 8, concerning this insect make it essential that I should put the following facts on record. I really ought to have done this some time ago.

There are eight specimens in my collection, seven of which came to me from the late Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison. His moths are labelled as follows: two specimens, "Redcar 5.vii.09"; one specimen, "Redcar 20.vii.04"; one specimen, "Redcar 11.vii.05"; one specimen, "Redcar 1906"; one specimen, "J. A. Clark's Sale, Feb. 1910"; one specimen, labelled but inscription so faded as to be now indecipherable.

Of these, the majority were caught at Redcar which is on the Yorkshire side of Teesmouth, in another habitat similar to the sandhills south of Hartlepool. Thus in fact it has been taken outside of Durham, albeit by only a few miles.

The eighth specimen in my collection was captured by myself on 10.vii.1948 at Castle Eden Denemouth. I remember the occasion well, because the late Professor Harrison had